

### More early emergences of moths

The receipt of Ken Smith's note (above) reporting an early example of the Spring Usher in his north London garden prompted me to seek the permission of a number of other entomologists to collate and publish similarly interesting records that they had already disseminated on the Internet. The following is a summary of these:

#### Spring Usher *Agriopsis leucophaearia* (D.& S.)

(Normal flight period commences mid February).

Rowner, Gosport, South Hampshire (VC 11), three on 8 January (Lee Marshall). Lee also noted December Moth *Poecilocampa populi* (L.) as late as 6 January 2000 at this site.

Ashill Wood, South Somerset (VC 5), one on 21 January at m.v. light (Bill Urwin & James McGill) and then five on 24 January 2001, picked up by driving along the road through the wood and leaping out to net them as they were caught in the headlights (James McGill);

Stoke Holy Cross. East Norfolk (VC 27), one on 25 January and one on 27 January (Andy Musgrove);

Elland, South-west Yorkshire (VC 63), two on 23 January, one on 24 January 2001 and four on 30 January 2001 – all different examples – at m.v. light (Paul Talbot).

Marshall's Heath, Hertfordshire (VC 20), Four examples in mid January (John Murray).

Orchard Wood, Taunton (VC 5), one on 30 January 2001 (James McGill).

Freshwater, Isle of Wight (VC 10), one on 30 January 2001 (Sam Knill-Jones);

Monks Wood, Huntingdonshire, (VC 31), one in the RIS light trap on 24 January 2001 and one over the weekend from 24 to 26 January 2001 (Nick Greatorex-Davies). Nick comments that this does not strike him as being particularly early for this species, since he usually expects them by late January here and in some years even earlier, e.g., 8 January in 1989 and 1992.

Raydon Great Wood, nr Hadleigh, East Suffolk, (VC 25) twenty plus, on 24 January 2001 (Tony Prichard, Graham Bull and Neil Sherman).

#### Pale Brindled Beauty *Phigalia pilosaria* (D.& S.)

(Normal flight period commences January).

Stoke Holy Cross. East Norfolk (VC 27), one on 22 December 2000 (Andy Musgrove).

**Early Grey *Xylocampa areola* (Esper)**

(Normal flight period commences mid March).

Taunton, South Somerset (VC 5), one at m.v. light on 21 December 2000 (James McGill);

Ashill, South Somerset (VC 5), two on 22 December 2000 and singletons on 23 and 27 December 2000, all at actinic light (Eric Kearns).

**March Moth *Alsophila aescularia* (D. & S.)**

(Normal flight period commences March).

Orchard Wood, Taunton (VC 5), three on 30 January (James McGill).

A further two reports are worthy of placing on permanent record, as follows:

**December Moth *Poecilocampa populi* (L.)**

Rowner, Gosport, South Hampshire (VC 11), persisting until 6 January 2000 (Lee Marshall).

**Large Yellow Underwing *Noctua pronuba* (L.)**

Shotton, North Wales, one at m.v. on the morning of 21st January (Colin Jones)

Sadly, no un-seasonal species seem to have found their way to my own garden trap yet. Whatever one's views on the issue of "global warming", it is undeniably the case that the seasons have shifted in recent years. Although some may, perhaps, consider some of these records above to be less than unusual, it is nevertheless worth placing on record, for the longer term future reference, any dates which seems to be at odds with "the norm". I would, therefore, welcome further reports of unusually early or late dates for any moth species, particularly from sites where comparative dates are also available from periods of ten, twenty or even more years ago. These may be sent either as Notes for publication or as records for inclusion in some future summary article. Information from specialists in other Orders of insects is also welcomed.

I am most grateful to the observers whose names appear above for permission to include their records in this present summary.— Colin W. Plant, 14 West Road, Bishops Stortford, Hertfordshire CM23 3QP (E-mail: Colinwplant@compuserve.com).

***Dioryctria schuetzeella* Fuchs (Lep.: Pyralidae) in Dorset**

Further to the earlier notes by Aston (2000. *Ent. Rec.* **112**: 215) and Plant (2000. *Ent. Rec.* **112**: 215-216) adding *Dioryctria schuetzeella* to the county lists for North Hampshire and Hertfordshire, respectively, I would like to record that I took a specimen of this very local pyrale in July 1999 on Parley Heath, Dorset. As far as I am aware this is the first record for Dorset (VC 9). — R. R. COOK, 11 Greensome Drive, Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 8BE.